

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Crown Copyright documents reproduced by courtesy of The National Archives, London, England.

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

The National Archives give no warranty as to the accuracy, completeness or fitness for the purpose of the information provided.

Images may be used only for purposes of research, private study or education. Applications for any other use should be made to The National Archives Image Library, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU.

EASTERN

F.O.  
371

1947

PALESTINE

Fine No. 9373

pp. 11433 to end

CLOSED  
UNTIL

1978

61961

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

**FO**

371 / 61961

E

E 11433

1947

PALESTINE

4 DEC

2

Registry  
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received  
in Registry

E 11433/8373/3

60

bound.

Dec 14

Withdrawal Appointment of Officers.

60 to Palestine 3048 of 29/11. Until  
situation clarifies only very short term plans  
could be made to meet immediate & needs.  
under headings: ① Political. ② Protection of  
British Subjects and Residents. ③ Temporal responsi-  
-bilities of the present Govt of Palestine.  
Review appointment of officers per same.

Last Paper

11428

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

61961

(Action  
completed)

(Index)

J.C.M. 15/12

15/12/48

Next Paper

11511

(Minutes.)

Action is on Personnel or  
E.O. papers but we should  
keep themi correct. entered for  
record.

I have not yet seen  
the H.C.'s reply

H.S. Davis  
Dec. 4

Now see E11511

JB Dec. 10

1
2
3
4
5
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON  
Reference:-

FO

371 / 61961



11433

4 DEC

13

13

13

13

13

13

- 13

13

13

13

13

COPIRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference: - **FO** 371 / 61961

1	2	3	4	5	6
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 10px;"> <span>1</span> <span>2</span> </div>					



1947

E

PALESTINE

E 11511

6 DEC

4

Registry  
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received  
in Registry

E 11511/9373/31

10. (round)

28

6 DEC

Withdrawal, Appointment of officers.

Relates to 2305 of 2/12. After 10/11/3048 (E 11433/9373/31) was consulted of O.G. who agrees with 40 Proposal to attach to Palestine a Senior Officer as Political Adviser.

Further comment as same.

Last Paper

11433

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes.)

See E 11433

Action is presumably on Establishment papers but we should keep trace of it.

The main question on which E. Sept. are required to advise is, I imagine, timing.

Now that May 15 is the date fixed for laying down the Mandate, the Govt. of Palestine will continue to function as such until that date, bearing

(Action  
completed)

(Index)

J. W. 11/12

15/1/48

Next Paper

E 11521

38538

1
2
3
4
5
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-  
**FO**  
371 / 61961

5  
spring accidents. But it is  
still possible that events may  
force us to expedite our  
withdrawal of the civil  
administration and troops  
and it would therefore be  
desirable that we should  
have our officers ready  
by March. They would  
in any case benefit by  
a month or two on the  
spot before their duties  
proper begin

~~E.O. Dept.~~  
~~Personnel Dept.~~

J.S. Quint  
Dec. 11

L.P.L. Pymon  
11/12

I have minted on X papers

BASO

12.12

1	2	3	4	5	6
Reference:-					
FO					
371 / 61961					

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

enter E  
6

6

11511  
6 DEC

18 DEC

14.25 hrs.

14.25 hrs.

© 2002 Blackwell Science Ltd, *Journal of Internal Medicine* 252: 103–110

Telegram No. 3045.

consulted the A.O.C. who agrees with the Foreign  
to attach to Palestine a senior officer as  
er. He would, however, (I prefer), and I agree  
ment should not be made until near the time  
of the Mandate, as until that date he will  
eration with us. Palestine officers who will  
remain in Palestine after the termination of  
overnment will fall into two categories:

ose required to assist the military authorities in  
administration and local political problems and

ose required to carry on work of liquidation.  
ossible to predict the extent of (b) but it would  
at both categories should operate independent  
d Adviser.

objection to proposals (2) and (3), except that other foreign representatives in Jerusalem (States as Saudi Arabia and Transjordan) have Consul General, the British representative therefore less status. British interests, both commercial, in Jerusalem are considerable and it is the main burden of clearing up residual problems in Jerusalem rather than Haifa. We do not (whether or when intended) U.N. Commission will have quarters but they would be wise to choose a location which should therefore have thought it desirable at least both officers should have the status of Consul.

4

2

- Mr. Gardner
- Eastern Department
- Consular Department
- Personnel Department.

Reference:- **FO** 371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



**PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE**

Group.....Fo

Class .....371

Piece .....61961

Following document(s)\*

~~retained in the Department of origin\*~~  
transferred to PRO Safe Room\*

E11572/9373/31

and closed until.....1998

\*delete as necessary

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40	41
42	43	44	45	46	47
48	49	50	51	52	53
54	55	56	57	58	59
60	61	62	63	64	65
66	67	68	69	70	71
72	73	74	75	76	77
78	79	80	81	82	83
84	85	86	87	88	89
90	91	92	93	94	95
96	97	98	99	100	101
102	103	104	105	106	107
108	109	110	111	112	113
114	115	116	117	118	119
120	121	122	123	124	125
126	127	128	129	130	131
132	133	134	135	136	137
138	139	140	141	142	143
144	145	146	147	148	149
150	151	152	153	154	155
156	157	158	159	160	161
162	163	164	165	166	167
168	169	170	171	172	173
174	175	176	177	178	179
180	181	182	183	184	185
186	187	188	189	190	191
192	193	194	195	196	197
198	199	200	201	202	203
204	205	206	207	208	209
210	211	212	213	214	215
216	217	218	219	220	221
222	223	224	225	226	227
228	229	230	231	232	233
234	235	236	237	238	239
240	241	242	243	244	245
246	247	248	249	250	251
252	253	254	255	256	257
258	259	260	261	262	263
264	265	266	267	268	269
270	271	272	273	274	275
276	277	278	279	280	281
282	283	284	285	286	287
288	289	290	291	292	293
294	295	296	297	298	299
300	301	302	303	304	305
306	307	308	309	310	311
312	313	314	315	316	317
318	319	320	321	322	323
324	325	326	327	328	329
330	331	332	333	334	335
336	337	338	339	340	341
342	343	344	345	346	347
348	349	350	351	352	353
354	355	356	357	358	359
360	361	362	363	364	365
366	367	368	369	370	371
372	373	374	375	376	377
378	379	380	381	382	383
384	385	386	387	388	389
390	391	392	393	394	395
396	397	398	399	400	401
402	403	404	405	406	407
408	409	410	411	412	413
414	415	416	417	418	419
420	421	422	423	424	425
426	427	428	429	430	431
432	433	434	435	436	437
438	439	440	441	442	443
444	445	446	447	448	449
450	451	452	453	454	455
456	457	458	459	460	461
462	463	464	465	466	467
468	469	470	471	472	473
474	475	476	477	478	479
480	481	482	483	484	485
486	487	488	489	490	491
492	493	494	495	496	497
498	499	500	501	502	503
504	505	506	507	508	509
510	511	512	513	514	515
516	517	518	519	520	521
522	523	524	525	526	527
528	529	530	531	532	533
534	535	536	537	538	539
540	541	542	543	544	545
546	547	548	549	550	551
552	553	554	555	556	557
558	559	560	561	562	563
564	565	566	567	568	569
570	571	572	573	574	575
576	577	578	579	580	581
582	583	584	585	586	587
588	589	590	591	592	593
594	595	596	597	598	599
600	601	602	603	604	605
606	607	608	609	610	611
612	613	614	615	616	617
618	619	620	621	622	623
624	625	626	627	628	629
630	631	632	633	634	635
636	637	638	639	640	641
642	643	644	645	646	647
648	649	650	651	652	653
654	655	656	657	658	659
660	661	662	663	664	665
666	667	668	669	670	671
672	673	674	675	676	677
678	679	680	681	682	683
684	685	686	687	688	689
690	691	692	693	694	695
696	697	698	699	700	701
702	703	704	705	706	707
708	709	710	711	712	713
714	715	716	717	718	719
720	721	722	723	724	725
726	727	728	729	730	731
732	733	734	735	736	737
738	739	740	741	742	743
744	745	746	747	748	749
750	751	752	753	754	755
756	757	758	759	760	761
762	763	764	765	766	767
768	769	770	771	772	773
774	775	776	777	778	779
780	781	782	783	784	785
786	787	788	789	790	791
792	793	794	795	796	797
798	799	800	801	802	803
804	805	806	807	808	809
810	811	812	813	814	815
816	817	818	819	820	821
822	823	824	825	826	827
828	829	830	831	832	833
834	835	836	837	838	839
840	841	842	843	844	845
846	847	848	849	850	851
852	853	854	855	856	857
858	859	860	861	862	863
864	865	866	867	868	869
870	871	872	873	874	875
876	877	878	879	880	881
882	883	884	885	886	887
888	889	890	891	892	893
894	895	896	897	898	899
900	901	902	903	904	905
906	907	908	909	910	911
912	913	914	915	916	917
918	919	920	921	922	923
924	925	926	927	928	929
930	931	932	933	934	935
936	937	938	939	940	941
942	943	944	945	946	947
948	949	950	951	952	953
954	955	956	957	958	959
960	961	962	963	964	965
966	967	968	969	970	971
972	973	974	975	976	977
978	979	980	981	982	983
984	985	986	987	988	989
990	991	992	993	994	995
996	997	998	999	1000	1001
1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007
1008	1009	1010	1011	1012	1013
1014	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019
1020	1021	1022	1023	1024	1025
1026	1027	1028	1029	1030	1031
1032	1033	1034	1035	1036	1037
1038	1039	1040	1041	1042	1043
1044	1045	1046	1047	1048	1049
1050	1051	1052	1053	1054	1055
1056	1057	1058	1059	1060	1061
1062	1063	1064	1065	1066	1067
1068	1069	1070	1071	1072	1073
1074	1075	1076	1077	1078	1079
1080	1081	1082	1083	1084	1085
1086	1087	1088	1089	1090	1091
1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097
1098	1099	1100	1101	1102	1103
1104	1105	1106	1107	1108	1109
1110	1111	1112	1113	1114	1115
1116	1117	1118	1119	1120	1121
1122	1123	1124	1125	1126	1127
1128	1129	1130	1131	1132	1133
1134	1135	1136	1137	1138	1139
1140	1141	1142	1143	1144	1145
1146	1147	1148	1149	1150	1151
1152	1153	1154	1155	1156	1157
1158	1159	1160	1161	1162	1163
1164	1165	1166	1167	1168	1169
1170	1171	1172	1173	1174	1175
1176	1177	1178	1179	1180	1181
1182	1183	1184	1185	1186	1187
1188	1189	1190	1191	1192	1193
1194	1195	1196	1197	1198	1199
1200	1201	1202	1203	1204	1205
1206	1207	1208	1209	1210	1211
1212	1213	1214	1215	1216	1217
1218	1219	1220	1221	1222	1223
1224	1225	1226	1227	1228	1229
1230	1231	1232	1233	1234	1235
1236	1237	1238	1239	1240	1241
1242	1243	1244	1245	1246	1247
1248	1249	1250	1251	1252	1253
1254	1255	1256	1257	1258	1259
1260	1261	1262	1263	1264	1265
1266	1267	1268	1269	1270	1271
1272	1273	1274	1275	1276	1277
1278	1279	1280	1281	1282	1283
1284	1285	1286	1287	1288	1289
1290	1291	1292	1293	1294	1295
1296	1297	1298	1299	1300	1301
1302	1303	1304	1305	1306	1307
1308	1309	1310	1311	1312	1313
1314	1315	1316	1317	1318	1319
1320	1321	1322	1323	1324	1325
1326	1327	1328	1329	1330	1331
1332	1333	1334	1335	1336	1337
1338	1339	1340	1341	1342	1343
1344	1345	1346	1347	1348	1349

<p>3 1947</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E11935 /G</p> <p>16 DEC 1947 7</p>
<p>E11935 19373 19</p> <p>F.O. Hin.</p> <p>Mr. Keith</p> <p>Dated 12 Dec</p> <p>Received 16 Dec.</p>	<p>Formation of Jewish Civic Guard</p> <p>Attaches Palestine to 2360.</p>	
<p>Last Paper</p> <p>E11542</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p> <p>News, Sept.</p>	
<p>References</p> <p>E11086/482/C</p>	<p>Information Policy, Sept.</p> <p>J.S. Davis</p> <p>Dec. 17</p>	
<p>(Print)</p>	<p>We did what we could via the BSC in 'the Times' piece and para 11 of letter No 82 covers this point. We will continue to bear this in mind.</p>	
<p>(How disposed of)</p>	<p>RATHEMERSON -</p> <p>RATHEMERSON -</p> <p>23/12</p> <p>H.B. 30/12</p>	
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p>25 31/12</p>	<p>(Index)</p> <p>Wyn</p>	
<p>Next Paper</p>		

34092

1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>Reference:-</p> <p>FO 371 / 61961</p>					

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

16 DEC 1947

Minutes.

E11935

Formation of Jewish Civic Guard.

The High Commissioner announced in his telegram No. 2240 in E 11086/G that he had decided to allow the Jews to set up a civic guard. He proposed to counter-balance this by offering to support the development of local bodies of armed watchmen employed by the Arab local authorities and would issue arms to them. Attention has recently been drawn in the press to this development by the High Commissioner's statement that only Jewish police were now employed in Tel Aviv. The position is now set out in greater detail in the attached telegram No. 2360 from Palestine.

It is important to discourage any reports that we are handing over Jewish areas in advance of our normal plans for withdrawal and the News Department have been asked to emphasise that the arrangements made are purely administrative (see paragraph 5 of attached telegram). "The Times" recently had a useful bit of background on this point, explaining that the Government of Palestine were devolving police work equally in Arab and Jewish areas.

News Dept. 14/12  
Info Policy Dept.

B. S. Benin

12th December 1947.

H.B. 17/12

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

**FO**

371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



1.6 DEC. 1947

INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 8th December, 1947.

R. 8th " " 19.00 hrs.

IMPORTANT

No. 2360 Secret.

Your telegrams Nos. 3171 and 3172.

Parliamentary Question.

Haganah.

The Haganah has not (repeat not) been "converted into a legal force". It has never been formally declared to be an illegal force, but it is in no way recognised as a legal body.

2. The Palestine Government does not permit possession of firearms by members of the Haganah in their capacity as such. During the past few months, no general search for Haganah arms has been made and no such search is intended.

3. An arrangement, which will come into force on 15th December, has been made with Vaad Leumi and the Jewish Agency regarding formation of an anti-terrorist guard for an area including Tel Aviv, Petah Tikvah, Ramat Gan and Bnei Brak. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of my telegram No. 2360 refer. This force will be known as Mishmar, and will be authorised to operate only in this particular area. Members will not (repeat not) be attested as Constables and will not (repeat not) be granted the powers and privileges of Police Officers. Initially, not more than 500 firearms licences, which will be valid only within the area named, will be issued to members of Mishmar. Firearms will not (repeat not) be provided by the Government.

4. The Mishmar will be armed by, and recruited mainly from, Haganah but in other respects has no connection with the latter body.

5. Care should be taken to explain that the withdrawal of British and Arab police from this area on 15th December is unconnected with the question of evacuating a seaport, and is designed to make more British and Arab police available for duty in mixed areas, especially Jerusalem and Haifa, and to take advantage of the services of the Jewish community offered, as protection against terrorism.

6. Parallel action is under deliberation in Jaffa, where a body of Arab Municipal Police is being formed. Initial strength of this force will be approximately 100, and it will be supplied by this Government with firearms. The exact relationship of this body to Jaffa Municipality has not yet been decided.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

**FO**

371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

E

E 11974

17 DEC 10

1947

Registry  
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received  
in Registry

E 11974/9373/31

4.0 minute

11 Dec 1947

16 Dec

17

Participation of British Subjects in Political matters.  
 Successes legal action that might be taken  
 against British subjects and might seek  
 to take part in the event of an Arab-  
 Jewish conflict involving war in Palestine  
 after the termination of the mandate.

Last Paper.

11935

(Minutes.)

B.V. 2/1/48

17/12

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

apt. Home Office

✓ Dec 17

apt. Director of  
Public Prosecutions

✓ Dec. 17

S. Matheran. &amp; Co (book letters)

✓ Dec 17

(Action  
completed.)

P.C. 20/1

(Index.)

11/1/48

Next Paper.

(92/92/31) 48

E 11980

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

MS. 3148 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Registry  
No.

<del>CONFIDENTIAL</del>
<del>SECRET</del>
Confidential.
<del>RESTRICTED</del>
<del>SECRET</del>

*Draft.*

The Home Office  
and  
the Director of  
Public Prosecu-  
tions.

*C. H. Jones*  
Copies to:

The Colonial  
Office,  
Mr. Mathieson.

*200/16/12*  
Mr. Vallat first.

RECEIVED BY
17/12
17/12

*Bevin*  
(17/12/47)

OUT FILE  
111974  
17 DEC

CONFIDENTIAL

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

16th December, 1947.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Bevin to state, for the information of the Home Secretary/Director of Public Prosecutions, that Mr. Bevin's attention has been drawn to the possibility that, in the event of an Arab-Jewish conflict breaking out in Palestine after the termination of the British Mandate, individual British subjects might seek to take part.

2. Although the exact nature of such a conflict cannot be predicted, it seems possible that it might take one of three forms:

(a) A Jewish state might be proclaimed, recognised by H.M.G. and its territory subsequently invaded by the forces of an Arab state recognised by H.M.G.

(b) The territory controlled by a Jewish state not recognised by H.M.G. might be invaded by the forces of an Arab state recognised by H.M.G.;

(c) Widespread fighting between Arab and Jewish forces might develop without overt participation by any state, Arab or Jewish, recognised by H.M.G.

3. Mr. Bevin is advised that, though it was at one time said to be a common law misdemeanour to enter the service of any foreign state without the leave of the King, it is very doubtful whether this can still

be/

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	1	1

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

FO 371 / 61961



be regarded as true. It seems unlikely that British subjects could ~~legally be prevented~~ <sup>prevented</sup> ~~from~~ <sup>for</sup> taking part in such a conflict unless the act or acts committed by them ~~fall~~ <sup>fall</sup> within the terms of the Foreign Enlistment Act of 1870. Section 4 of that Act, which declares that:

"If any person, without the licence of Her Majesty, being a British subject, within or without Her Majesty's Dominions, accepts or agrees to accept any commission or engagement in the military or naval service of any foreign state at war with any foreign state at peace with Her Majesty. . . . . he shall be guilty of an offence against this Act", would seem to be applicable in the circumstances envisaged in paragraph 2 (a) above. Mr. Bevin ~~is, however, advised that~~ <sup>attention has been called to the following</sup> the essential points of this section are

(i) <sup>I</sup> acceptance or agreement to accept any commission or engagement <sup>is the gist</sup> of the offence;

(ii) the section contemplates the existence of a "war";

(iii) the war must be between two "states".

4. It appears doubtful, therefore, whether any ~~legal~~ means exists of ~~preventing~~ <sup>prosecuting</sup> British subjects ~~from~~ <sup>for</sup> taking part, on one side or another, in a conflict which may arise in the circumstances envisaged in paragraph 2 (b) and (c) above. Mr. Bevin would, however, be grateful for the <sup>your views</sup> views of your Department ~~and those of the Home Office,~~ and of the Director of Public Prosecutions, to whom a similar letter is being addressed.

Yours etc.,  
(Sgd.) B.A.B. Rumors

NFB.17/12

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

OUT FILE

13

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

S.W.1.

17th December, 1947.

Confidential

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Bevin to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, that Mr. Bevin's attention has been drawn to the possibility that, in the event of an Arab-Jewish conflict breaking out in Palestine after the termination of the British Mandate, individual British subjects might seek to take part.

2. Although the exact nature of such a conflict cannot be predicted, it seems possible that it might take one of three forms:

(a) A Jewish state might be proclaimed, recognised by His Majesty's Government and its territory subsequently invaded by the forces of an Arab state recognised by His Majesty's Government.

(b) The territory controlled by a Jewish state not recognised by His Majesty's Government might be invaded by the forces of an Arab state recognised by His Majesty's Government.

(c) Widespread fighting between Arab and Jewish forces might develop without overt participation by any state, Arab or Jewish, recognised by His Majesty's Government.

3. Mr. Bevin is advised that, though it was at one time said to be a common law misdemeanour to enter the service of any foreign state without the leave of The King, it is very doubtful whether this can still be regarded as true. It seems unlikely that British subjects could be prosecuted for taking part in such a conflict unless the act or acts committed by them fell within the terms of the Foreign Enlistment Act of 1870. Section 4 of that Act, which declares that: "If any person, without the licence of Her Majesty, being a British subject, within or without Her Majesty's Dominions, accepts or agrees to accept any commission or engagement in the military or naval service of any foreign state at war with any foreign state at peace with Her Majesty.....he shall be guilty of an offence against this Act", would seem to be applicable in the circumstances envisaged in paragraph 2 (a) above. Mr. Bevin's attention has been called to the following points-

- (i) the section contemplates the existence of a "war;
- (ii) the war must be between two "states".

4./

The Under Secretary of State,  
Home Office.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	1	1
Reference:-					
FO					
371 / 61961					

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

4. It appears doubtful, therefore, whether any means exists of prosecuting British subjects for taking part, on one side or another, in a conflict which may arise in the circumstances envisaged in paragraph 2 (b) and (c) above. Mr. Kevin would, however, be grateful for the views of your Department and of the Director of Public Prosecutions, to whom a similar letter is being addressed.

I am,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) B.A.B. Burrows

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	1	1

Reference:-  
**FO**  
371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



17th December, 1947.

**Confidential**

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Bevin to state, for the information of the Director of Public Prosecutions, that Mr. Bevin's attention has been drawn to the possibility that, in the event of an Arab-Jewish conflict breaking out in Palestine after the termination of the British Mandate, individual British subjects might seek to take part.

2. Although the exact nature of such a conflict cannot be predicted, it seems possible that it might take one of three forms:

(a) A Jewish state might be proclaimed, recognized by His Majesty's Government and its territory subsequently invaded by the forces of an Arab state recognized by His Majesty's Government.

(b) The territory controlled by a Jewish state not recognised by His Majesty's Government might be invaded by the forces of an Arab state recognised by His Majesty's Government.

(c) widespread fighting between Arab and Jewish forces might develop without overt participation by any state, Arab or Jewish, recognised by His Majesty's Government.

3. Mr. Bevin is advised that, though it was at one time said to be a common law misdemeanour to enter the service of any foreign state without the leave of The King, it is very doubtful whether this can still be regarded as true. It seems unlikely that British subjects could be prosecuted for taking part in such a conflict unless the act or acts committed by them fell within the terms of the Foreign Enlistment Act of 1870. Section 4 of that Act, which declares that: "If any person, without the licence of Her Majesty, being a British subject, within or without Her Majesty's Dominions, accepts or agrees to accept any commission or engagement in the military or naval service of any foreign state at war with any foreign state at peace with Her Majesty.....he shall be guilty of an offence against this Act", would seem to be applicable in the circumstances envisaged in paragraph 2 (a) above. Mr. Bevin's attention has been called to the following points:-

(1) the section contemplates the existence of a "war";

(11) the war must be between two "states".

4.7

**The Director  
of Public Prosecutions.**

[illegible]

16

(Sep.) B.A.B. Benares.

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

**FO**

371 / 61961

**PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE**

Group..... *FO*

Class ..... *371*

Piece ..... *61961*

Following document(s)\*

~~retained in the Department of origin\*~~

transferred to PRO Safe Room\*

*E 11980/9373/31*

and closed until..... *1998*

\*delete as necessary

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	3	4	5

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:- **FO**

*371 / 61961*

27	E	E 1158
1247	PALESTINE	17 DEC 1948

Registry Number *E11981/9373/31*  
 FROM *W. Marshall -*  
 No. *Davis*  
 Dated *M/7.P.*  
 Received in Registry *Commnd. 17 Dec.*

*Relisted, wayleave for I.P.B. oil.*  
*disappointed that Relisting had not have been*  
*advised that they should not now conclude*  
*a convention with I.P.B. granting them*  
*wayleave facilities a report of oil from their*  
*Barka and Maad, concessions, and*  
*possibility from Transjordan.*

Last Paper  
*E11980*

References  
*E11011/46/31*

7

(Print)

(How disposed of)  
*Appl. J.M. Martin*  
*80.*  
*Transit Bureau.*  
*Camps. Marshall Davis*  
*M/7.P.*  
*Feb. 3*

(Action completed) <i>GC 1/6/48</i>	(Index) <i>15/9/48</i>
--	---------------------------

Next Paper  
*2199/8/71 48*  
*12105*

*Make white.* (Minutes)

*See separate minute.*  
*LP 20/12*

*In P.P. J.M. Martin 80. to W. Marshall Davis*  
*19 Dec*  
*1948*

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-  
**FO**  
 371 / 61961



Defor 17  
 This seems to  
 have become  
 detached from its  
 HP before reaching  
 me. P.S. attach  
 a card to LF Defor  
 B. B. B.

Given to  
 PC at  
 12/20/61

1
2
3
4
5
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61961

**NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.**

1	2	3	4	5	6
---	---	---	---	---	---

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

FO 371 / 61961

Now see letter from N. Martin to  
Mr. Ford & Powers attached behind.  
L. P. L. Pagan

(L.F.L. Pyman)  
19th December, 1947

N. Berlin first.

Criticism would come mainly from  
New York, and I think the views of  
W. A.

Minutes.

N.A. Dept. would be useful

H.B. Kelly 31/12

1. N.A. Dept. for any etc.

2. Mr. Burns.

It would seem to me that the main point is whether or not the I.P.C. will be in a better bargaining position vis-à-vis the Jewish State or the Economic Board if it negotiates after May 15th on an existing concession or has to start ab ovo. I should have thought that the possibility of criticism was at least a subordinate issue, and that if there is any we can meet it quite simply by saying that the H.C.'s concession can, under the terms of the U.N. decision, only run until we hand over the Mandate; that we are letting the company go ahead because we do not want to hold up the economic development of the area and that we are putting assets (in the shape of payments for the concession) into Palestine rather than taking them out.

*F.B.A. Rundall*

(F.B.A. Rundall)  
6th January, 1948.

I agree with Mr Rundall.

ER Dept ✓

BAB 20.1

Held up by Mr. D.H. C.O.

L.H. Dyer  
31/1

20

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON  
Reference:-  
**FO**  
371 / 61961

17 DEC 1947

E11981

21

17 DEC 1947

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF

MR. W.D. MONSELL DAVIS

E11981

17 DEC 1947

Petroleum Division,  
Ministry of Fuel and Power,  
7, Millbank,  
S.W.1.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	1	1

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



PD 548/15

13th December, 1947.

Dear Trafford Smith,

We are disappointed to note from Colonial Office telegram No. 3154 of the 7th December to the H. C. Palestine that the Government of Palestine have been advised that they should not now conclude a convention with I. P. C. granting the latter wayleave facilities in respect of oil from their Basha and Mosul concessions, and possibly from Transjordan.

Our letter of the 1st December to Burt was intended to show the importance of signing an agreement forthwith on terms regarded by both parties as satisfactory and the difficulties which would be created if delay is prolonged. It would indeed be unfortunate if I. P. C. find it impossible to maintain the Transjordan oil concession on this account.

It is particularly regrettable that the H. C. was advised without further consultation with the F. O. and this Ministry and we strongly support the hope expressed by the Foreign Office (Burrows letter (E 11011/46/6) of 9th December) that it is not too late to reconsider the question.

The Palestine Government would appear to have everything to gain and nothing to lose by concluding the agreement for wayleaves with the I. P. C.

Yours sincerely,

Trafford Smith, Esq.,  
Colonial Office,  
Whitehall, S.W. 1.

(Sdg.) W. D. MONSELL DAVIS

22

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1			2	
Reference:-					
FO					
371 / 61961					

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON





24

19th December, 1947.

I am writing to confirm what I said at our discussion to-day about the question of way-leave facilities for the I.P.C. in Palestine.

would

W.D. Monsell-Davis, Esq.

1

2

3

4

5

6

1

2

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61961

25

would refuse to endorse the concession without extracting something more by way of quid pro quo. If the matter should fall within the purview of the proposed Economic Board, on which there would be international representation, similar difficulties would be likely to arise.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Pyman at the Foreign Office.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) J. M. MARTIN.

J.M. Martin

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61961

Registry  
No.E 11981/9373/31

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

L.  
F.  
L.  
P.

Draft.

Mr. Martin,  
Colonial Office

from

Mr. Burrows

BAB

Mr. W.D. Monsall-Davies  
Ministry of Fuel  
and Power

RECEIVED IN DIVISION	
31/1/48	
SENT TO TYPE	2/2
REMARKS	

L.F.L. Pyman  
31/1

E.R. 24/1/48  
N.A. 24/1/48

OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

January, 1948.

3 Jan

Since you wrote your letter No. 17110/43/47 of 19th December 1947 to Monsall-Davies about the question of wayleave facilities for the Iraq Petroleum Company in Palestine, we have given further consideration to the political aspect of the question.

~~On further consideration~~ It seems to us that the main point is whether or not the Iraq Petroleum Company will be in a better bargaining position vis-à-vis the Jewish State or the Economic Board if it negotiates after 15th May on an existing concession or has to start from nothing. We are inclined to think that the possibility of criticism ~~is~~ at best a subordinate issue and that if there is any we could meet it quite simply by saying that the High Commissioner's concession can, under the terms of the United Nations decision, only run until we hand over the mandate; ~~we~~ we are letting the company go ahead because we do not want to hold up the economic development of the area and that we are putting assets (in the shape of payment of the concession) into Palestine rather than take them out.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Monsall-Davies.

BAB 3  
31.1

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO 371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

27  
FOREIGN OFFICE. S.W.1

3rd February, 1948

(E 11931/9373/31)

Secret.

Since you wrote your letter No. 17110/43/47 of 19th December 1947 to Monsell Davis about the question of wayleave facilities for the Iraq Petroleum Company in Palestine, we have given further consideration to the political aspect of the question.

It seems to us that the main point is whether or not the Iraq Petroleum Company will be in a better bargaining position vis-à-vis the Jewish State or the Economic Board if it negotiates after 15th May on an existing concession or has to start from nothing. We are inclined to think that the possibility of criticism is at best a subordinate issue and that if there is any we could meet it quite simply by saying that the High Commissioner's concession can, under the terms of the United Nations decision, only run until we hand over the mandate; that we are letting the company go ahead because we do not want to hold up the economic development of the area and that we are putting assets (in the shape of payment of the concession) into Palestine rather than take them out.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Monsell-Davis.

J.M. Martin, Esq., C.B., C.V.O. *MB* (B.A.B. Burrows)  
Colonial Office.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

Reference:-  
**FO**  
371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



E

1947

PALESTINE

12105

22 DEC 24

Registry  
Number  
FROM

E12105/9373/31

No.

Q.T. Newling  
Wij. & P. P. P. P.

Dated

to W. P. P. P.

Received  
in Registry

Dec 16,  
- 22

Appointment of Examination Officer.  
Cabinet last week agreed appointment of  
an officer charged with the specific duty  
of arranging for the evacuation of (valuable)  
and other stores belonging to the three  
reserves - P. P. P. P.  
Emergency meeting to arrange suitable  
directives for the officer.

Last Paper.

11981

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

I attended this meeting. A  
draft directive has been circulated  
J.B. Tan 8

(Action  
completed.)

18/11/47

(Index.)

15/9/48

Next Paper.

E12169

1
2
3
4
5
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-  
FO 371 / 61961



22 DEC December 16th 1947.

29

1 2 3 4 5 6

1 2

Reference:- **FO** 371 / 61961

filling/

/I am...

CONFIRMED BY THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



Yours sincerely,

Aghewhig

Copies go to War Office, Admiralty, Air Ministry,  
- Treasury.

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

1		2		3		4		5		6	
		1						2			

Reference:-

**FO**

371 / 61961

15	E	31
	PALESTINE	E 12169 16 JAN 1948

Registry Number <i>E-12169/9773/31</i> FROM <i>W. Galsworthy</i> No. <i>80</i> Dated <i>to W. Burrows</i> Received in Registry <i>18 Dec</i> <i>23 Dec</i>	<i>Appointment of Governor for Jerusalem</i> <i>Mr. W. Burrows attended an important dinner at which Lloyd, Benig, Benadon, and for a while was the appointment of Governor of Jerusalem, transmit list of names not forward by various members.</i>
---	---

Last Paper  
**E11981**

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

Next Paper  
**1480**

(Minutes)  
Please make while a.a.

I doubt very much whether the U.S. Govt. will in fact permit an American nomination.

N. American *Rejo*  
S. *✓*  
Northern *✓*  
Western *✓*

for any o/s.

H.B. 29/12

I agree with the remark in the third paragraph of Mr. Galsworthy's letter regarding General MacArthur who would be a good choice. I very much doubt, however, whether even the prospect of being a Messiah would persuade him to give up his present job in Japan, which shows no sign of coming to an end, or that the U.S. Government would let him do so. Moreover he has other irons in the fire - namely the possibility of becoming Chief Military Adviser to Chiang-Kai-shek, in addition to being the virtual ruler of Japan, and also the possibility (though this is admittedly remote) of his being drafted for the Republican nomination for the U.S. Presidency next summer - which would probably cause him to regard the Jerusalem governorship as affording him insufficient scope.

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference: - **FO** 371 / 61961

Panamanian

I attach a copy of the last Personalities Report on Dr. Alfaro, who, until recently was Panamanian M.F.A. He resigned a few days ago to demonstrate his disapproval of the new U.S.-Panama Canal Bases Agreement, which the Panamanian Congress has since rejected. He is no longer very pro-American and was recently described by the U.S. Ambassador to Panama as "that embittered mulatto". In spite of his prominence in Panamanian politics and U.N. affairs I doubt if he would be the best man for this difficult job.

*P.S. Stephens*  
(P.S. STEPHENS)  
29th December, 1947.

I attach an extract from Colombia Personalities (1946) on Dr. Santos. As will be seen from this he has held several League appointments, is a former President of Colombia and was the Latin American Deputy D.G. of UNRRA, and is known for his firmness and good sense.

*J.C. Petrie*  
31/12

His UNRRA appointment was not an administrative one - he was engaged with Sayre in an endeavour to get contributions out of the Latin American countries. He would seem a stronger candidate than Alfaro.

*Archibald*  
31/12

I attach extracts from Personalities about Hambro & Urdin. Neither have had any administrative experience or seem otherwise exceptionally qualified for this job. Hambro is undoubtedly the stronger personality & also the better disposed towards the western

32

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Minutes.

Western Powers. Undén's inclination  
to sit on the fence makes him  
rather a thorn in our flesh at  
the moment & might make  
him a liability in Jerusalem.  
Sir B. Tennant, to whom I have  
shown this paper, thinks it  
very unlikely Undén would  
accept & suggests that Judge  
Sandström should be considered.

W. St. Tallor  
7/1

The note at flag D in R9513  
gives him Stukis curriculum  
vitae. Berno did not consider  
that he would make a suitable  
Governor of Trieste. See R9904  
within Berno  
13/1

H13. 24/1

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	1	1

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



Colonial Office, *Enter*  
The Church House,  
Gt. Smith Street,  
LONDON. S.W.I.

18<sup>th</sup> December 1947

My Reference.....

Your Reference.....

ET2169

34

CONFIDENTIAL.

*Dear Burrows,*

I have had a personal letter from Sir Alan Burns in which he tells me that he attended an informal dinner the other day at which Sayre (President of the Trusteeship Council), Gerig (U.S. Representative), Berendsen (The New Zealand Representative) and Forsythe (The Australian Representative) were present. The main function of the dinner was to discuss quite informally the appointment of the Governor of Jerusalem.

The general feeling was that the Governor must be either an outstanding personality of international repute, or a well qualified administrator: and that a combination of the two would, of course, be the ideal.

The enclosed list shows the names that were put forward by various members. Some, I gather, were put forward with great hesitation. When Burns expressed surprise that a man like General

MacArthur/

B.A.B. BURROWS, ESQ.,

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	1	1
Reference:-					
FO					
371 / 61961					

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

35

MacArthur should be considered, since it seemed unlikely that he would accept such a post, he was assured that if the General felt a real Messiah was needed he would at once consider himself the obvious choice. It was thought too that others would be willing to accept the post from a sense of duty rather than from inclination.

Burns adds that he formed the impression that, although the Americans theoretically did not want one of their own citizens to be chosen they would be very glad if they could be urged to depart from this stand, but we would have to press them in order to get an American.

Burns points out that the list is in no way final, and merely the result of a very informal talk. He would however like to discuss it with us on his return, and would like to have our comments on the names in the list, and if possible any suggestions we might have as to alternative names. I believe I am right in thinking that Stucke at least was at one time under consideration as a possible candidate for the Governorship of Trieste?

I should be grateful therefore if you could let us have any views and comments of the Foreign Office on the present list, and any suggestions you might have as to other possible starters, so that we shall be in a position to discuss them with Burns who, as you know, will be in the Colonial Office immediately after Christmas.

I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosure to Shannon at the C.R.O. whose comments I should also be very glad to have.

RECEIVED IN C.B.

22 DEC 1947

SENT TO DEPT.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*A.N. Galsworthy*  
(A.N. Galsworthy)

B .R.A.S

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	2	1

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:- **FO**

371 / 61961

COPY

36

APARRO, Ricardo J., (Panamanian)

CRERAR, General Henry Duncan Graham (Canadian)

FREYBERG, Lt.-Gen. Sir Bernard Cyril (New Zealander)

HAMBRO, Carl J. (Norwegian)

LAVARACK, Lt.- Gen. Sir John Dudley (Australian)

LEWIS, Essington (Australian)

MACARTHUR, General Douglas (American)

MORESHEAD, General (Australian)

RYCKMANS, Pierre (Belgian)

SANTOS, Eduardo (Colombian)

STUCKI, Walter (Swiss)

UNDEN, Bo Osten (Swedish)

1	2	3	4	5	6
1				2	
Reference:-					
FO					
371 / 61961					

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

37

ALFARO, Dr. Ricardo J.

Appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Government of President Enrique Jiménez, July 1945. Ex-President of the Republic January 1931-October 1932. Born in Panama 20th August, 1882. Was Panamanian Minister at Washington until he was invested with the office of President of the Republic after the overthrow of the Arosemena Administration by the revolution of 2nd January, 1931. He failed, however, to take up a strong attitude in the face of various national emergencies. Had previously held various appointments, including that of Secretary of State for Government and Justice. Was one of the signatories of the Treaty with the United States of 28th July, 1926, which the Panamanian National Assembly refused to ratify, and has, in consequence, acquired a reputation for being too American in his sympathies, which has militated against him with some of his compatriots. Is a lawyer by profession and a man of no little ability. He has, nevertheless, no personal following, and his accession to the presidency after the revolution was due to the fact that he had been elected First Vice-President under a previous régime. He speaks admirable English, and is married to a lady who is the daughter of a British subject and who, although born in Panama, was educated in England. Is a brother of Dr. Horacio F. Alfaro.

On the succession to the presidency of Dr. Harmodio Arias on 1st October, 1932, Dr. Ricardo Alfaro retired into private life for a brief space, but was almost immediately reappointed to his old post of Panamanian Minister at Washington, which he held until Sr. Augusto Boyd's appointment in October, 1936. Sr. Ricardo Alfaro was a Panamanian delegate during the negotiations at Washington, in 1934-35 for the revision of the Canal Treaty of 1903, which he

/signed

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



38

signed with Dr. Garay. He was a relentless opponent of the late President J.D. Arosemena.

Returned to Panama in order to contest the presidential elections as the opponent of Dr. Arnulfo Arias in 1940, but was obliged to withdraw from the contest.

Was appointed in June 1944 Chairman of the Commission for Codifying the Laws of the Republic. Was also Chairman of the Committee to redraft the Constitution. Represented Panama at the San Francisco Conference. In February, 1945 became Regional Chairman of U.N.R.R.A., resigning this office in order to take up his appointment as Minister for Foreign Affairs in the new Government.

Sra. Alfaro still talks of England with affection as her "first home".

In October 1946 he was appointed president of the Panamanian delegation to the United Nations Conference. Was highly praised in many parts of the world for his speech at the United Nations Conference regarding international politics between the United States and Latin America (November 1946). Is a strong candidate for the post of Director of the Pan-American Union and is also mentioned as a possible replacement for Dr. J.J. Vallarino, Ambassador of Panama in Washington.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2
Reference:-					
FO					
371 / 61961					

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

116. Santos, Dr. Eduardo, O.B.E.

Born 1888. Of agreeable personality and French education. One of the most influential leaders of the Liberal party. He is a very wealthy man and his fortune is due to his successful administration of his newspaper El Tiempo which is the foremost daily newspaper of Colombia. He threw in his whole weight in support of the eleventh-hour candidature of President Olaya Herrera at the beginning of 1930; was the latter's whole-hearted supporter throughout his Administration (1930-34) and was regarded as the chief of the "Olayista" Liberals. He was Olaya Herrera's first Foreign Minister (August-December 1930). He left for Europe in April 1931 and was appointed a member of the Colombian delegation to the League of Nations. In September 1932 the "Leticia" incident took place, following which relations between Colombia and Peru were strained for a period of three years. As a result of that incident, Dr. Eduardo Santos was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary on special mission to all European countries, and it was he who, on the 12th May, 1933, on behalf of the Colombian Government, accepted the final formula proposed by the League of Nations, which gave rise to the settlement which was reached by the signature of the Rio Protocol on the 24th May, 1934. Dr. Santos' appointments, both as delegate to the League and Special Envoy, appointments for which he accepted no remuneration, terminated, at his own request, on the 25th January, 1934. He returned to Bogotá shortly afterwards and took his seat in the Senate. Throughout the stormy debates in the Senate over the ratification of the Rio Protocol during December-January 1934-35, Dr. Santos withstood the brunt of the attacks of the firebrand Senator Laureano Gómez. He was re-elected to the Senate in May 1935 and took a prominent part in the endeavour to fix responsibilities in the "Skoda affaire" (peculation in the purchase of armaments during the tension with Peru). Although essentially an "Olayista" Liberal, Dr. Santos consistently supported Dr. Alfonso López, prior to the latter's inauguration as President of the Republic in 1934. But, like all the other leading "Olayista" Liberals, he refused to accept a post in the López Cabinet, and became increasingly estranged from Dr. López whose social policy he considered too Leftist. He went back to Geneva for a short period at the end of 1935 and on his return in 1936 re-entered politics. Was president of the Senate and president of the Liberal directorate in 1937. Went back again to Geneva in September 1937. Was elected President of the Republic in May 1938 and remained in office until August 1942. He was faced with a difficult problem in maintaining the unity of the Liberal party, split into its two ways of right and left. In other respects his presidency was marked by sober common-sense and the country made steady progress under his régime in spite of the second world war. It was due to his personal initiative that Colombia, in advance of any other South American country, severed diplomatic relations with the Axis in December 1941. When Dr. López succeeded him as President in 1942, he went off on a prolonged visit to the United States, during the course of which he went to Canada as an official guest. In 1943 went to London as guest of British Council. Appointed Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in 1944, representing Latin-America.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO** 371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



40

40

40

40

40





20

E

12180

23 DEC 42

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number E/2180/9373/31  
FROM  
No. Hq of defence  
Dated forward  
Received in Registry 23 Dec

Meeting on stores in Palestine  
Treaty MISC/M(47)41 of 18 Dec.  
being minutes of meeting held in Conference  
Room on Dec 18 re disposal of stores  
in Palestine.

Last Paper.

12169

(Minutes.)

H.B. 3/1

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

J. E. M. 1/1

(Index.)

15/9/48

Next Paper.

E12232

29470 F.O.P.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON  
Reference:-  
**FO**  
371 / 61961

512180

23 DEC

Enter

E

43

SECRET

COPY NO. 1

MISC/M(47)41

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MEETING ON STORES IN PALESTINE

Minutes of a Meeting held in Conference  
Room "E", Ministry of Defence, S.W.1, on  
Thursday 18th December, 1947 at 3-0 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mr. A.J. Nowling,  
Ministry of Defence. (In the Chair)

Mr. H. Grosswell,  
Ministry of Defence.

Mr. A. McEwing,  
Treasury.

Mr. J.G.S. Beith,  
Foreign Office.

Mr. J. Gutch,  
Colonial Office.

Mr. G. Moses,  
Admiralty.

Comdr.(S) J.K. Watkins,  
Admiralty.

Mr. J.R. McGregor,  
War Office.

Major-General Sir E. Tickell  
War Office.

Major-General F.W. Festing,  
War Office.

Brig. Ll. Wansbrough-Jones,  
War Office.

Lt.-Col. R.J. Dinsmore,  
War Office.

Mr. E.W. Short,  
Air Ministry.

Air Comdre. L. Bates,  
Air Ministry.

SECRETARIAT:

Mr. J.F. Hosie.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

**FO**

371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



44

THE CHAIRMAN explained that the Cabinet had requested the Minister of Defence to give effect to their decision to appoint a special officer who would exercise general supervision over the arrangements for removal and disposal of Services stores from Palestine. The officer had not yet been appointed but a draft directive had been prepared in the Ministry of Defence and the meeting had been called to consider this draft. He proposed and it was agreed that the meeting should first discuss any general considerations which members might wish to raise and then consider the draft in detail.

The representatives of all the Service Departments enquired whether it was the intention that the officer should exercise executive powers and, if so, what form they should take. They pointed out that the arrangements regarding removal of stores were already in operation and that performance of executive powers by the officer would involve duplication of work and staff with a risk of slowing down completion of the task. After discussion, the Meeting were of the opinion that, in view of organisations already in operation the officer's functions would tend to be advisory rather than executive and that he should use the existing organisations.

The Meeting then considered in detail the draft brief. A number of agreed amendments were noted by the Secretariat and have been incorporated in the revised draft directive, a copy of which is attached.

The Meeting, on the suggestion of the Chairman, agreed:-

that the Chairman should submit the draft as amended to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence with a suggestion that it be circulated to the Permanent Secretaries of the Service Departments, the Ministry of Supply and the Ministry of Transport, for Departmental concurrence.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, S.W.1.

19TH DECEMBER, 1947.

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON					
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6
Reference:-					
FO					
371 / 61961					

45

Directive to the Officer appointed to exercise  
general supervision over the arrangements for  
removal and disposal

4. The following are the approximate quantities of moveable stores excluding vehicles now held in Palestine:-

Navy	5,000	
Army	325,000	
Air Force.	31,000	(Subject to confirmation by the Air Ministry).

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

1						
	2		3		4	
		1				
					5	
				2		
						6

Reference:-

**FO**

371 / 61961

46.

5. A main difficulty in connection with the removal of stores from Palestine will be limitation of transport, including shipping. It will be your responsibility, in consultation with the Shipping and other Transport authorities, to assess the relative priorities of the different categories of stores competing for the limited movement facilities. It is understood that a preliminary estimate of the quantities likely to be removable within such transport facilities as at present foreseen are:-

1st Aug.	By sea	250,00 tons
29th Feb.	Overland	50,000 " plus vehicles.

The Royal Navy hope to be able to provide shipping for their stores.

6. The disposal of stores other than warlike stores not required by the Services is the responsibility of the Ministry of Supply. You will satisfy yourself, so far as the Services are concerned that there is no delay in throwing up stores, equipment, etc., which are unserviceable or surplus to requirements and in consultation with the local Ministry of Supply authorities, that arrangements are made for removal or sale under the most suitable arrangements of the maximum quantities of such stores provided that their sale to particular individuals, agencies, etc., is in conformity with the policy of H.M.G. On this last aspect you should consult, as necessary, the local military authorities and/or (until the termination of the Mandate) the Civil Administration of Palestine.

7. You may make recommendations as to the possibility of disposing of warlike stores and equipment to friendly Governments (e.g. Iraq) where suitable transport arrangements are possible. You will receive further instructions as necessary from the Ministry of Defence.

8. If it proves impossible either to remove, sell, demilitarise or destroy all stores and equipment before the Forces are withdrawn, arrangements for their safe custody should be completed as far as possible. In that connection you are empowered to negotiate with the United Nations Commission in Palestine, or with Successor Governments, for the collection and safe custody of stores which we desire to remove after the completion of withdrawal, or which we wish to dispose of locally.

9. You will acquaint yourself with the local arrangements and powers for dealing with fixed assets of all kinds including the arrangements for their custody after completion of withdrawal. You will be prepared to advise in any major issues of policy which have to be referred home regarding the disposal of major assets.

10. Your contacts with the Service authorities will be arranged through the C.s in C. Middle East, who have been advised of the terms of this Directive and have been instructed to afford you all assistance in their power in the discharge of your task. You will contact the H.C.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1				
Reference:-					
FO					
371 / 61961					

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

47

for Palestine matters affecting the Civil Administration prior to the termination of the Mandate. Your contacts with the Ministry of Supply authorities will be arranged through British Supply Disposal Mission, M.E, and with the Ministry of Transport authorities through , who have also been made aware of the arrangements.

11. While it is desired that you should act as far as possible on your own initiative in consultation with the authorities mentioned in para 10, you are requested to report any major problems to the Ministry of Defence for decision on matters of general policy or priority. You are also asked to furnish to the Minister of Defence, for the information of the Government, monthly reports of the progress made, furnishing copies to the above - mentioned authorities.

Minister of Defence.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	2	1

Reference:-

**FO**

371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

E

12232

1947

PALESTINE

24 DEC 48

Registry  
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received  
in Registry

E 12232/9323/

J. Onions

(Mr. Burrows)

24 Dec

24 Dec

Disposal of stores in Palestine.Draft letter to G/K Stapleton (Ministry  
of Defence) requesting views on the  
possible transfer of stores - Palestine  
to Iraq, Iraq-Jordan & Syria.

Last Paper.

E 12180

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

G/K Stapleton (Mr. Onions)  
for Mr. Burrows.  
✓ Dec. 30(Action  
completed.)J. Onions  
12/11/48

(Index.)

J. Onions  
12/11/48

Next Paper.

E 12285

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



24 Feb

**SECRET**

Dear Stapleton

30 ~~24~~ December, 1947.

*Draft.*

~~Lt. Col M. Charteris~~

~~War Office.~~

GIC Stapleton  
My of Defence

12232

24 DEC

183  
184  
185  
186  
187  
188  
189  
190  
191  
192  
193  
194  
195  
196  
197  
198  
199  
200  
201  
202  
203  
204  
205  
206  
207  
208  
209  
210  
211  
212  
213  
214  
215  
216  
217  
218  
219  
220  
221  
222  
223  
224  
225  
226  
227  
228  
229  
230  
231  
232  
233  
234  
235  
236  
237  
238  
239  
240  
241  
242  
243  
244  
245  
246  
247  
248  
249  
250  
251  
252  
253  
254  
255  
256  
257  
258  
259  
260  
261  
262  
263  
264  
265  
266  
267  
268  
269  
270  
271  
272  
273  
274  
275  
276  
277  
278  
279  
280  
281  
282  
283  
284  
285  
286  
287  
288  
289  
290  
291  
292  
293  
294  
295  
296  
297  
298  
299  
300  
301  
302  
303  
304  
305  
306  
307  
308  
309  
310  
311  
312  
313  
314  
315  
316  
317  
318  
319  
320  
321  
322  
323  
324  
325  
326  
327  
328  
329  
330  
331  
332  
333  
334  
335  
336  
337  
338  
339  
340  
341  
342  
343  
344  
345  
346  
347  
348  
349  
350  
351  
352  
353  
354  
355  
356  
357  
358  
359  
360  
361  
362  
363  
364  
365  
366  
367  
368  
369  
370  
371  
372  
373  
374  
375  
376  
377  
378  
379  
380  
381  
382  
383  
384  
385  
386  
387  
388  
389  
390  
391  
392  
393  
394  
395  
396  
397  
398  
399  
400  
401  
402  
403  
404  
405  
406  
407  
408  
409  
410  
411  
412  
413  
414  
415  
416  
417  
418  
419  
420  
421  
422  
423  
424  
425  
426  
427  
428  
429  
430  
431  
432  
433  
434  
435  
436  
437  
438  
439  
440  
441  
442  
443  
444  
445  
446  
447  
448  
449  
450  
451  
452  
453  
454  
455  
456  
457  
458  
459  
460  
461  
462  
463  
464  
465  
466  
467  
468  
469  
470  
471  
472  
473  
474  
475  
476  
477  
478  
479  
480  
481  
482  
483  
484  
485  
486  
487  
488  
489  
490  
491  
492  
493  
494  
495  
496  
497  
498  
499  
500  
501  
502  
503  
504  
505  
506  
507  
508  
509  
510  
511  
512  
513  
514  
515  
516  
517  
518  
519  
520  
521  
522  
523  
524  
525  
526  
527  
528  
529  
530  
531  
532  
533  
534  
535  
536  
537  
538  
539  
540  
541  
542  
543  
544  
545  
546  
547  
548  
549  
550  
551  
552  
553  
554  
555  
556  
557  
558  
559  
560  
561  
562  
563  
564  
565  
566  
567  
568  
569  
570  
571  
572  
573  
574  
575  
576  
577  
578  
579  
580  
581  
582  
583  
584  
585  
586  
587  
588  
589  
590  
591  
592  
593  
594  
595  
596  
597  
598  
599  
600  
601  
602  
603  
604  
605  
606  
607  
608  
609  
610  
611  
612  
613  
614  
615  
616  
617  
618  
619  
620  
621  
622  
623  
624  
625  
626  
627  
628  
629  
630  
631  
632  
633  
634  
635  
636  
637  
638  
639  
640  
641  
642  
643  
644  
645  
646  
647  
648  
649  
650  
651  
652  
653  
654  
655  
656  
657  
658  
659  
660  
661  
662  
663  
664  
665  
666  
667  
668  
669  
670  
671  
672  
673  
674  
675  
676  
677  
678  
679  
680  
681  
682  
683  
684  
685  
686  
687  
688  
689  
690  
691  
692  
693  
694  
695  
696  
697  
698  
699  
700  
701  
702  
703  
704  
705  
706  
707  
708  
709  
710  
711  
712  
713  
714  
715  
716  
717  
718  
719  
720  
721  
722  
723  
724  
725  
726  
727  
728  
729  
730  
731  
732  
733  
734  
735  
736  
737  
738  
739  
740  
741  
742  
743  
744  
745  
746  
747  
748  
749  
750  
751  
752  
753  
754  
755  
756  
757  
758  
759  
760  
761  
762  
763  
764  
765  
766  
767  
768  
769  
770  
771  
772  
773  
774  
775  
776  
777  
778  
779  
780  
781  
782  
783  
784  
785  
786  
787  
788  
789  
790  
791  
792  
793  
794  
795  
796  
797  
798  
799  
800  
801  
802  
803  
804  
805  
806  
807  
808  
809  
810  
811  
812  
813  
814  
815  
816  
817  
818  
819  
820  
821  
822  
823  
824  
825  
826  
827  
828  
829  
830  
831  
832  
833  
834  
835  
836  
837  
838  
839  
840  
841  
842  
843  
844  
845  
846  
847  
848  
849  
850  
851  
852  
853  
854  
855  
856  
857  
858  
859  
860  
861  
862  
863  
864  
865  
866  
867  
868  
869  
870  
871  
872  
873  
874  
875  
876  
877  
878  
879  
880  
881  
882  
883  
884  
885  
886  
887  
888  
889  
890  
891  
892  
893  
894  
895  
896  
897  
898  
899  
900  
901  
902  
903  
904  
905  
906  
907  
908  
909  
910  
911  
912  
913  
914  
915  
916  
917  
918  
919  
920  
921  
922  
923  
924  
925  
926  
927  
928  
929  
930  
931  
932  
933  
934  
935  
936  
937  
938  
939  
940  
941  
942  
943  
944  
945  
946  
947  
948  
949  
950  
951  
952  
953  
954  
955  
956  
957  
958  
959  
960  
961  
962  
963  
964  
965  
966  
967  
968  
969  
970  
971  
972  
973  
974  
975  
976  
977  
978  
979  
980  
981  
982  
983  
984  
985  
986  
987  
988  
989  
990  
991  
992  
993  
994  
995  
996  
997  
998  
999  
1000  
100

23/12

In the course of discussions leading up to the adoption of the plan for withdrawal from Palestine we mentioned a suggestion which had occurred to the Foreign Secretary that it might be found convenient to transfer to the Iraq or Transjordan Governments part of the stores which we had in Palestine and ~~it~~<sup>which</sup> might be useful for the re-equipment of the Iraq and Transjordan armies. I do not know whether this idea was ever pursued. We have announced in Parliament the doctrine that new orders for military equipment from Middle East States will be carefully scrutinised and that the decisive factor will be whether the equipment is likely to be used in Palestine. This decision would seem to make it difficult to supply any war-like stores to Iraq or Transjordan unless they could fairly be represented as deliveries on account of existing and outstanding orders. The same difficulty might however not apply in the case of non-warlike stores.

In this connexion the Syrian Minister has also told me that his Government would be very interested in buying any stores which we might have for disposal in Palestine. He realises that there would be difficulty in supplying warlike stores but thought there might well be other items which would not meet with the same difficulty

Could you let me know what ~~the War Office~~ <sup>and the views of</sup>  
~~its service authorities~~ <sup>views</sup> are with regard to either of these  
suggestions? <sup>When we have their</sup>

suggestions? When we have their views the question will naturally have to be carefully <sup>reviewed</sup> ~~reconsidered~~ from the political point of view.

BARB 24.12

(Sgd.) L. F. L. Pyman  
for B. A. B. Burrows.

**NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.**

22650) Wt 14696/147 75.000 6/47 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.685

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

reference:-

TO

371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

30th December, 1947.

(E 12232/9373/31)

SECRET.

Dear Stapleton,

In the course of discussions leading up to the adoption of the plan for withdrawal from Palestine we mentioned a suggestion which had occurred to the Foreign Secretary that it might be found convenient to transfer to the Iraq or Transjordan Governments part of the stores which we had in Palestine and which might be useful for the re-equipment of the Iraq and Transjordan armies. I do not know whether this idea was ever pursued. We have announced in Parliament the doctrine that new orders for military equipment from Middle East States will be carefully scrutinised and that the decisive factor will be whether the equipment is likely to be used in Palestine. This decision would seem to make it difficult to supply any war-like stores to Iraq or Transjordan unless they could fairly be represented as deliveries on account of existing and outstanding orders. The same difficulty might however not apply in the case of non-warlike stores.

In this connexion the Syrian Minister has also told me that his Government would be very interested in buying any stores which we might have for disposal in Palestine. He realises that there would be difficulty in supplying warlike stores but thought there might well be other items which would not meet with the same difficulty.

Could you let me know what are the views of the Service Authorities with regard to either of these suggestions? When we have their views the question will naturally have to be carefully reviewed from the political point of view.

(Sgd.) L. F. L. Pyman

for (B.A.B. Burrows)

Group-Captain

D.C. Stapleton, D.F.C., A.F.C.,  
Ministry of Defence,

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON





Top Secret.  
~~Secret.~~  
~~Confidential.~~  
Restricted.  
~~Open.~~

(from Mr. Burns)

begin to  
become different  
W.O.  
Mr. Rafford Smith  
C. O.

H.B. 227  
12

22.11

Top Secret

22nd <sup>E12329</sup> December, 1967

52

You will remember that on the 11th December the Defence Committee invited the Chiefs of Staff to examine the possibility of transferring control over the port of Tel Aviv to Jewish authorities, in order that they might use it for the admission of immigrants, some weeks before the mandate is terminated.

You will also have noticed that the Foreign Secretary, answering a question on this subject in the course of his speech in the House of Commons on the 12th December, said: "I cannot agree to open a port until we lay down the mandate. We cannot have two administrations at one time."

It follows from this statement that ~~the~~ control over the part of Tel Aviv could not be transferred at an earlier date than that now contemplated, namely

**NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.**

(2/47) (14728) Wt. 11489—144 250m 5/47 G.S.St.

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-



371 / 61961



53

namely the 15th May, unless the  
 mandate itself were laid down in  
 advance of that date. The Foreign  
 Secretary therefore suggests that the  
 Chiefs of Staff ~~should modify~~ <sup>interpret</sup> the  
~~terms of reference given to them by~~  
~~the Defence Committee, and that they~~  
~~need only~~  
~~should~~ examine the possibility of  
 terminating the mandate for Palestine  
 some weeks earlier than the 15th  
 May & not the possibility of giving up a Jewish  
 port before the end of the Mandate.  
 I am sending 2 copies of this  
 letter to Charteris & Safford for 15.

WLL

22.12

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

**FO**

371 / 61961

1ep/se  
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.,

22nd December, 1947. 16  
54

E 12329/9373/C.

TOP SECRET

You will remember that on the 11th December the Defence Committee invited the Chiefs of Staff to examine the possibility of transferring control over the port of Tel Aviv to Jewish authorities, in order that they might use it for the admission of immigrants, some weeks before the mandate is terminated.

You will also have noticed that the Foreign Secretary, answering a question on this subject in the course of his speech in the House of Commons on the 12th December, said: "I cannot agree to open a port until we lay down the mandate. We cannot have two administrations at one time".

It follows from this statement that control over the port of Tel Aviv could not be transferred at an earlier date than that now contemplated, namely, the 15th May, unless the mandate itself were laid down in advance of that date. The Foreign Secretary therefore suggests that the Chiefs of Staff need only examine the possibility of terminating the mandate for Palestine some weeks earlier than the 15th May, and not the possibility

Group-Captain D.C. Stapleton,  
D.F.C., A.F.C.,  
Cabinet Offices.

of/

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	2	1

Reference:-  
**FO**  
371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

55

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1			2	

2

371/61961

35

E

12351

30 DEC

56

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number E/12351/9373/31

FROM

EO Mitchellman

No.

Embassy Office

Dated

Received in Registry

22 Dec

30 -

Last Paper.

12330

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

not. E.O. Mitchellman

Emb. Off.

from Mr. Trevelyan

24 Dec

(Action completed.)

PE/12351/9373/31

(Index.)

12351/9373/31

Next Paper.

12363

Pol. Lit. Future of Pol. - Republic. - Repudiation.

Enclosed 11/12/47 5-14 inc. report which has been prepared by the Treasury and also sent and passed for inclusion in the report on Political. dealing with the future of the Republic and Republic in Palestine. (Minutes.)

JB Jan 5

In P.P. 4. Flettley 7/12 47 to Mr. Mitchellman. Emb. Off. 29/12

JB Jan 7

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



**NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.**

*Minutes.*

E

I have no comments, except that we are  
not on strong ground, since

(a). we are going away.

(b). There is no safeguard that the Sumeron Govts. will consider themselves bound by everything the Canadian agree to, particularly if a matter is not treated in the fundamental 'harkon' documents. They will contend that an agreement with the IPC were 'against public policy' & therefore cannot be respected.

However, we have got to play this card as  
toughly as we can.

I have to give comments today.

H. Newell Jan. 23/12/47

Eastern Dept.

U. N. (P). CR.  
23.12.

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

**FO**

371 / 61961



WHITEHALL 5422

CABINET OFFICE  
GREAT GEORGE STREET,  
S.W.1

22nd December, 1947

12351

30 DEC

Dear Trevelyan,

I enclose for you to see a copy of draft paragraphs 5 - 14 inclusive on oil which have been prepared by the Treasury and Ministry of Fuel and Power for inclusion in the report on Palestine.

I should be glad to know by tomorrow that you have no amendments.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Flett at the Treasury and Mr. Monsell Davis, Ministry of Fuel and Power.

Yours sincerely,

*E. A. Hitchcock*

H. Trevelyan, Esq.,  
Foreign Office.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

**FO**

371 / 61961

59

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:- **FO** 371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

371 / 61961

**/Current**

60

Current annual expenditure by the British Oil Companies on loading dues, taxes, rents, wages, purchase of local materials and capital costs is estimated at about £5.25 million, and will be considerably higher when the expansion schemes have been completed and are operating.

9. At the moment the Refinery Company never owns the oil that it processes. It is remunerated on a fee basis and, as its sole shareholders are the Companies that distribute the refined product, this fee is almost certainly less than would be charged by an outside concern. There is a strong possibility that the successor Government will be attracted by the opportunity of earning hard currency or gold presented by the existence of the refinery on its territory. Assuming that it respects the terms of the convention signed by the Mandatory Government in 1933 it cannot secure an appreciable return from the Company by way of taxation or port dues certainly until 1958 and probably not before the beginning of next century.

10. The successor government may however attempt to secure an exchange profit either by:-

- (a) insisting that the Refinery Company increases its processing fee to the full "economic" level and receives some part of the fee in gold or hard currency, or
- (b) - more likely - laying down that all oil refined in Palestine must be sold for dollars.

Whether the successor government will really give way to this temptation is unknown. If it did and succeeded the result would be extremely serious. The production of the Haifa refinery will increase during the next few years. If the oil companies have their way the British share alone will be  $7\frac{1}{2}$  million tons in 1950 and the difference in cost between the crude oil intake (for which presumably we would charge Palestine dollars in the circumstances envisaged) and refined oil output is of the order of £20 million at present prices.

11. Alternative 10(a) therefore would mean our paying a fair proportion of this amount in gold; alternative 10(b) would mean paying in dollars for that proportion of the Haifa output that was consumed in the sterling area.

12. On the other hand, we are not without weapons with which to oppose such an attempt by the successor government, e.g. (a) we could refuse to proceed with the expansion of the refinery and the pipe line across Palestine which this involves, (b) refineries wear out pretty quickly and we could in the last resort (and at considerable expense to ourselves) transfer the refinery elsewhere, (c) dollar invoicing is a game at which two can play and Palestine must take an appreciable part of her imports from the sterling area.

13. For the moment it is difficult to see what can be done to ward off the

/prospect

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1			2	

Reference:-

**FO**

371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

61

14. It is recommended that Sir Alexander Cadogan should seek to establish with the United Nations Commission:-

- It is further recommended that Sir A. Cadogan should be asked;--

- |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|   | 1 |   |   | 2 |   |

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

**FO**

371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

reference:-

FO  
371 / 61961



NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(2/47) (14728) Wt. 11489-144 250m 5/47 G.S.St.

Registry  
No.

Top Secret.  
Secret.  
Confidential.  
Restricted.  
Open.

Draft.

62  
Add at end of para. 10:

The Iraqi Govt have  
expressed anxiety about  
the future of the Haifa  
refineries in view of  
their interest in the export  
of oil through  
that port.

—  
Add at some appropriate  
point:

The effect of the establishment  
of a Jewish state on the  
existing

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

**FO**

371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

existing and projected pipelines also require careful examination.

Arab states may well make  
difficulties over wayleaves  
of pipelines whose terminals  
are to be in the Jewish  
state. American pipe line  
construction may be different  
in Arab countries for some  
time to come.

63

**NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.**

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON									
1	2	3	4	5	6				
		1		2					
Reference:-						FO			
						371 / 61961			

**OUT FILE**  
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

24th December, 1947.

UE.

Your letter of 22nd December with the draft paragraphs 5 - 14 prepared by the Treasury and Ministry of Fuel & Power, for inclusion in the report on Palestine. We suggest the following additions: -

(i) At the end of paragraph 10: -

"The Iraq Government have expressed anxiety about the future of the Haifa refineries in view of their interest in the export of Iraqi oil through that port."

(ii) At an appropriate place:

"The effect of the establishment of a Jewish state on the existing and projected pipelines also requires careful examination. Arab states may well make difficulties over wayleaves of pipelines whose terminals are to be in the Jewish state. American pipeline construction may be difficult in Arab countries for some time to come".

I am sending a copy of this letter to Flett and Monsell-Davies.

H. Trevelyan.

E.A. Hitchman, Esq.,  
Cabinet Office.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1			2	

Reference:-  
**FO**  
371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

65

HA

**29th December, 1947.**

**E** 1235-1 / 9373 / 21

7 E  
11/11/2011

Yours sincerely,

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

**FO**

371 / 61961

<p>9</p> <p>1947</p> <p>31</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E1236<sup>3</sup> /G</p> <p>30 DEC 1947 66</p>
<p>E1236<del>3</del> 19373 10</p> <p>12363</p> <p>Sir H. Wilson Smith</p> <p>Ministry of Defence</p> <p>to Sir O. Sargent</p> <p>Dated 22 Dec</p> <p>Received 30 Dec.</p>	<p>Collection and evacuation of military stores from <u>Palestine</u></p>	
<p>Last Paper</p> <p>E12330</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p> <p>We have to-day been reminded about this letter by the Ministry of Defence. I am sorry it has been overlooked. Draft now submitted</p> <p>H Beely 27</p> <p>JAB Burrows</p> <p>2.1</p> <p>MCh</p> <p>3.1</p>	
<p>References</p> <p>(Print)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of)</p> <p>Sgt/ Sir H. Wilson Smith</p> <p>mt/Def. Jan. 5.</p>		
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p>25/1</p>	<p>(Index)</p> <p>WJH</p>	
<p>Next Paper</p>		

34092

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON					
1	2	3	4	5	6
Reference:-					
FO					
371 / 61961					





TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET  
Eastern Day

50

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,  
GREAT GEORGE STREET,  
S.W. 1

**S.V.**

67

22nd December, 1947.

E12368

Dear Bargent,

You will remember that when the Cabinet on 4th December were considering the plans for the withdrawal of British authority from Palestine, on a Memorandum put forward by the Foreign and Colonial Secretaries, they agreed that it would be advisable to make a "special appointment" for the specific purpose of supervising the collection and evacuation of military stores from Palestine, and invited the Minister of Defence to arrange for this appointment to be made.

My Minister has been considering various suggestions for filling this appointment and I hope that a decision will be reached in the very near future.

Meanwhile, a meeting was held here on 18th December to get on with consideration of a Directive for the specially appointed officer: I attach a copy of a brief note of the meeting, to which is appended a Draft Directive agreed by representatives of the various Departments concerned and were present.

Sir Orme Brought, B.E., B.M.C.

/I would

[illegible]



68

I should be grateful if you would let me know as soon as possible whether the draft directive is acceptable to the Foreign Office, as the officer selected for this appointment will presumably have to start his work very soon.

Yours sincerely,

*A Wilson Smith*

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2			

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:- **FO** 371 / 61961

SECRET

64  
COPY NO. 29

MISC/M(47)41

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MEETING ON STORES IN PALESTINE

Minutes of a Meeting held in Conference  
Room "E", Ministry of Defence, S.W.1, on  
Thursday 18th December, 1947 at 3-0 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mr. A.J. Nowling,  
Ministry of Defence. (In the Chair)

Mr. H. Grosswell,  
Ministry of Defence.

Mr. A. McEwing,  
Treasury.

Mr. J.G.S. Beith,  
Foreign Office.

Mr. J. Gutch,  
Colonial Office.

Mr. G. Moses,  
Admiralty.

Comdr.(S) J.K. Watkins,  
Admiralty.

Mr. J.R. McGregor,  
War Office.

Major-General Sir E. Tickell  
War Office.

Major-General F.W. Festing,  
War Office.

Brig. Ll. Wansbrough-Jones,  
War Office.

Lt.-Col. R.J. Dinsmore,  
War Office.

Mr. E.W. Short,  
Air Ministry.

Air Comdre. L. Bates,  
Air Ministry.

SECRETARIAT:

Mr. J.F. Hosie.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	1	1

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

**FO**

371 / 61961

that the Chairman should submit the draft as amended to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence with a suggestion that it be circulated to the Permanent Secretaries of the Service Departments, the Ministry of Supply and the Ministry of Transport, for Departmental concurrence.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, S.W.1.

19TH DECEMBER, 1947.



## 71

# REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF SERVICES' STORES FROM PALESTINE

Directive to the Officer appointed to exercise  
general supervision over the arrangements for  
removal and disposal

1. It is the desire of H.M.G. that the maximum amount of serviceable stores, equipment, plant, machinery and vehicles should be evacuated from Palestine in the time available. In so far as stores, etc. are unserviceable or surplus to Service requirements it is the Government's policy that they should be handed over at the earliest date possible to the Ministry of Supply, except in the case of warlike stores (including ammo.) which are dealt with separately below.

2. Your task will be to examine the plans made, the priorities laid down, and the action contemplated in pursuance of them by the Naval, Military and Air Force authorities and to advise whether they represent the best practical means of carrying out the Government's intentions. In this connection you will be concerned, in conjunction with the Palestine Government and the local Naval, Military and Air Force and Ministry of Supply authorities, with every type of store and its disposal - whether recovery by the Service concerned for future use, disposal on the spot or to other countries, abandonment or destruction.

3. You will have regard in considering priorities for evacuation to the Services' essential needs over the next few years for constructional and accommodation stores of all sorts for housing troops and for machinery, workshop plant, and vehicles; on these priorities you will be advised by the Service Departments and the Ministry of Supply.

You will review the adequacy of the arrangements made for safe removal or where this is not possible for the demilitarisation or destruction of all lethal weapons and ammunition.

Where there is any conflict of opinion between the interested parties as to priority, method or rate of evacuation or disposal of any stores, equipment, etc. **the** final decision shall rest with you, subject to para 11 below.

4. The following are the approximate quantities of moveable stores excluding vehicles now held in Palestine:-

Navy	5,000	
Army	325,000	
Air Force.	31,000	(Subject to confirmation by the Air Ministry).

72

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1			2	

**Reference:-**

**FO**  
371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

73

for Palestine matters affecting the Civil Administration prior to the termination of the Mandate. Your contacts with the Ministry of Supply authorities will be arranged through British Supply Disposal Mission, M.E, and with the Ministry of Transport authorities through , who have also been made aware of the arrangements.

11. While it is desired that you should act as far as possible on your own initiative in consultation with the authorities mentioned in para 10, you are requested to report any major problems to the Ministry of Defence for decision on matters of general policy or priority. You are also asked to furnish to the Minister of Defence, for the information of the Government, monthly reports of the progress made, furnishing copies to the above - mentioned authorities.

Minister of Defence.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	2	1
Reference:-					
FO					
371 / 61961					

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(2/47) (14728) Wt. 11489-144 250m 5/47 G.S.St.

Registry  
No. E12365/9373/6

~~Top Secret.~~  
Secret.  
~~Confidential.~~  
~~Restricted.~~  
~~Open.~~

Draft. letter to  
Sir H. Wilson  
Smith, Ministry  
of Defence

(from Sir Orme  
Sargent)

H.B. Bealey 3/1

M. H. Knight  
3.1

OUT FILE

SECRET

74  
May 9 refer you to your letter  
of the 22nd December, enclosing a draft  
directive to the officer who will be  
appointed to supervise the removal and  
disposal of Services stores from Palestine,  
which was approved by an inter-  
Departmental meeting on the 18th  
December.

My only comment concerns  
paragraph 7 of the draft. In view of  
the serious political implications of  
any transfer of material to either  
Arabs or Jews, we should like it clearly  
laid down that the Foreign Secretary  
shall be consulted before any proposal  
is adopted for the disposal of stores or  
equipment to foreign governments.

The draft is otherwise acceptable to  
the Foreign Office. B. Jan 3

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

Reference:-  
**FO**  
371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



OUT FILE

SECRET

5th January, 1948.

75  
END

*Dear Wilson-Smith,*

May I refer you to your letter of the 22nd December, enclosing a draft directive to the Officer who will be appointed to supervise the removal and disposal of Services stores from Palestine, which was approved by an inter-Departmental meeting on the 18th December,

My only comment concerns paragraph 7 of the draft. In view of the serious political implications of any transfer of material to either Arabs or Jews, we should like it clearly laid down that the Foreign Secretary shall be consulted before any proposal is adopted for the disposal of stores or equipment for the disposal of stores or equipment to foreign Governments.

The draft is otherwise acceptable to the Foreign Office.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*O. G. Sargent.*

Sir Henry Wilson-Smith, K. B. E.,  
Ministry of Defence.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

Reference:-

**FO**

371 / 61961

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

# PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group..... FD

**Class** ..... 211 .....

Piece ..... 61961

**Following document(s)\***

~~retained in the Department of origin\*~~  
transferred to PRO Safe Room\*

E 12397 / 9373 / 31

and closed until..... 1-7-78

**\*delete as necessary**

1	2	1	3	4	5	6
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

### Reference:-

371 / 61961

**COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON**